

Dear Sirs:

Please help! Calls from telemarketers now regularly outnumber the calls I get from anyone else and I have begun to hate my telephone. I'm sick of repeating, "Please remove me from your call list," to a continuous string of aggressive strangers, trying to say it fast enough so that they don't precipitously disconnect. What an irony that is: me trying to keep a telemarketer on the line!

If my caller i.d. indicates an "out of area" call, it's almost invariably a commercial one. Unfortunately, my daughter's calls from England come in that way too, so I am obliged to answer every call. Then there's the outrage of arriving home to discover that the messages I really need to get have been crowded off my answering machine by a pre-recorded advertisement which uses up the tape!

I am interrupted on a daily basis from work, from dinner, from relaxing in the evening by these calls, and more than half the time there's not even a telemarketer to tell off, just a click and a disconnect. An overloaded automatic dialer, I was told by the phone company when I called in desperation to ask what I could do.

Naturally, the phone company offers a service which will make my friends and business contacts jump through hoops in order to contact me. It's about time there were roadblocks for the calls I don't ask for, don't want and am utterly helpless to prevent. I do not know, nor have I ever met anyone who welcomes this kind of harassment.

Judith Hanes